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**REMARKS**

After the present amendment, claims 1-21 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3-5, 11, 15, 17, 18, and 20 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of outstanding claims 1-21 in view of the above amendments and following remarks are requested.

**A. Rejection of Claims 4 and 18 under 35 USC §112, ¶ 2**

The Examiner has rejected claims 4 and 18 under 35 USC §112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite. Applicant has amended claims 4 and 18 to recite that "said first capacitor has a first capacitance value that is substantially greater than a second capacitance value of said second capacitor". Referring to the present application at pages 10-11, capacitor C1 might have a capacitance of 100.0 nF and capacitor C2 might have a capacitance of 10.0 nF, for example. In one embodiment, "capacitor 'C1' is much larger than capacitor 'C2'." Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 4 and 18 as being indefinite be withdrawn.

**B. Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8, 10-17, and 20-21 under 35 USC §102(b)**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8, 10-17, and 20-21 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,425,096 to Okada ("Okada"). For the reasons discussed below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention, as

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defined by amended independent claims 1 and 11, is patentably distinguishable over Okada.

Various embodiments of the present invention relate to pulse dialing circuit 302 for reducing voltage peak on a tip/ring line. Referring to Figure 3 of the present application, an RC circuit, first switch 318, and an amplifier circuit share common node TRDCtmp. The RC circuit comprises second capacitor 322 and at least one of resistors 324 and 328. The amplification circuit comprises op amp 332, transistor 348, and/or transistor 350.

Referring to the present application, page 14, line 3 through page 15, line 15, the voltage at TRDCtmp discharges to ground at a rate determined by the RC circuit. Advantageously, the voltage at node TRDCtmp can be controlled by changing the value of the external second capacitor without having to change internal components.

The voltage at node TRDCtmp controls transistors 348 and 350 via op amp 332. Therefore, the rate at which transistors 348 and 350 turn off can be controlled by changing the values of the second capacitor 322, resistor 324, and/or resistor 328. The rate at which transistors 348 and 350 turn off also determines the rate at which "IT" (i.e. the DC loop current drawn by transistors 348 and 350 at the tip/ring line) changes with time. When "IT" changes rapidly, a voltage spike is induced on the tip/ring line. The magnitude of the voltage spike is directly proportional to the rate of change of "IT." Therefore, by changing the values of the RC circuit to decrease the rate at which "IT"

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changes, the voltage spike can be advantageously decreased without the use of a costly external clamping circuit.

Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to further illustrate this aspect of the invention. Amended independent claims 1 and 11 now recite language indicating that the RC circuit, the first switch, and the amplification circuit share a common node such that a rate of discharge of a voltage at the common node is controlled by changing at least one value of the second capacitor and the at least one resistor, thereby changing a rate at which a DC loop current at the tip/ring line changes.

In contrast, upon review of Okada, it is apparent that the parallel combination of C1 and R4, transistor 95, and transistor 93 do not share a common node such that a rate of discharge at the common node is controlled by changing at least one value of C1 and R4, thereby changing a rate at which a DC loop current at a tip/ring line changes. Moreover, the parallel combination of C1 and R4, transistor 95, and transistor 93 do not even share a common node. Further, there is not even a tip/ring line in Okada. Therefore, Okada does not disclose, teach, or suggest the present invention as defined by amended independent claims 1 and 11, nor does Okada achieve some of the advantages of the present invention discussed herein.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention as defined by independent claims 1 and 11 is not taught, disclosed, or suggested by Okada. Thus, independent claims 1 and 11 are patentably distinguishable over Okada. As such, the claims depending from amended independent claims 1 and 11 are, *a fortiori*,

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also patentably distinguishable over Okada for at least the reasons presented above and also for additional limitations contained in each dependent claim.

**C. Rejection of Claims 2, 7, 9, and 19 under 35 USC §103(a)**

The Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 19 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious with respect to Okada in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,621,904 to Fischer, et al. ("Fischer"). The Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 9 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious with respect to Okada in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,121,425 to Reichelt ("Reichelt"). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 7, 9, and 19 depend from independent claims 1 and 11, and thus, claims 2, 7, 9, and 19 should be allowed at least for the same reasons discussed above in conjunction with patentability of independent claims 1 and 11.


**D. Conclusion**

Based on the foregoing reasons, the present invention, as defined by amended independent claims 1 and 11, and claims depending therefrom, is patentably distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner. Thus, outstanding claims 1-21 are patentably distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner. As such, and for all the foregoing reasons, an early allowance of claims 1-21 remaining in the present application are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully Submitted,  
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Date: 6/15/04

  
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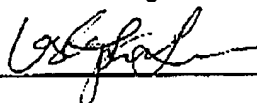
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